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ORGANIZATION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF 1993

Note by the President of the Economic and Social Council

1. The principal objective of the high-level (ministerial) segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council is to promote a dialogue and exchange of views among heads of delegations present. This requires a format that draws away from the traditional succession of long speeches and permits greater interaction among participants. It is felt that everybody will benefit from a more lively discussion of substance.

2. To this end, the Council decided last year that heads of delegations should make about three interventions of no longer than five minutes each (see Council decision 1992/217, sect II). Nonetheless, a more lengthy full statement covering all the issues that heads of delegations want to address can be circulated beforehand or on the occasion of the first five minutes' intervention. Public information on the statement would refer to its entirety, irrespective of the moment in the Council discussion in which comments will actually be made. Furthermore, a press conference or briefing session with the media will be organized for heads of delegations who so desire it.

3. Throughout the high-level segment, the President of the Council is expected to take a leading role in stimulating interventions among the participants, summarizing the discussions as they progress and initiating the successive stages of the dialogue.

4. The experience of the 1992 high-level segment, which was the first under the new arrangements pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/264, was not entirely satisfactory in promoting dialogue and interactions among participants. The principal reason for this was that most of the limited time available for the high-level segment was taken up by formal statements which lasted beyond the allotted time.

5. It may be noted that at the forthcoming high-level segment, the Council will have only about 12 hours in all (28 June and 30 June) for the consideration of the major theme: "World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development", given that the second day (29 June) is devoted to the policy dialogue with heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system. If statements of 10 minutes or longer are made, most of the time will be used up by formal interventions with little opportunity for dialogue. Every effort needs to be made to avoid such a situation.

6. The cooperation of all delegations is kindly requested to ensure that the process laid out above is carried out successfully.